

Council Briefing

2004 Crime Statistics & Traffic

Austin Police Department

August 5, 2004



Austin Police Department



Crime in Austin Jan-Jun 2004

Part I Index Crimes are the **serious** crimes reported to DPS and the FBI:

Violent Crime

- ◆ Murder
- ◆ Rape
- ◆ Robbery
- ◆ Aggravated Assault

Property Crime

- ◆ Burglary
- ◆ Theft
- ◆ Auto Theft



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Crime in Austin Jan-Jun 2004

Overall, serious crime is down 1.7%

- ◆ 22,031 Part I Index crimes from Jan - Jun 2004
compared to 22,420 from Jan - Jun 2003
- ◆ Overall decrease driven by a reduction in
burglaries and burglaries of vehicles



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Crime in Austin Jan-Jun 2004

Violent Crime

- ◆ 1,690 violent crimes from Jan - Jun 2004
compared to 1,534 from Jan - Jun 2003
- ◆ Increase of 156 reported crimes or about 10%



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16 Homicides through June 2004compared to 14 in 2003

- ◆ In 3 of the cases, the crime was committed in a prior year but the victim died in 2004
- ◆ **Of the 13 crimes committed in 2004:**
 - 12 have been solved....92% clearance rate
 - 4 involved domestic violence
 - 8 involved an acquaintance
 - 1 case under investigation...relationship unknown
 - 2 victims were children, 12 and 13 years old

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135 Rapes through June 2004compared to 104 in 2003

- 26 rape of a child cases, compared to 36 last year
- 71% of the victims knew their assailant
- 23% of the victims had a brief encounter with the assailant
- 4% of the assailants were strangers
- 2% of the cases, the relationship is unknown
- No indication of any serial rapists active in recent months
- 39 Hispanic victims in 2004 compared to 49 in 2003

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679 Robberies through June 2004compared to 565 in 2003

- ◆ 50-60% of robbery victims are Hispanic
- ◆ Recent increase in serial robberies
 - 2/3 of all robberies were committed by a few individuals/groups
 - Example- 5 young men committing 11+ robberies in one week
- ◆ 30 banks robbed compared to 4 in 2003
 - 77% of the bank robberies have been cleared compared to the national average of 36%



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872 Aggravated Assaults through June 2004compared to 850 in 2003

- ◆ 22% of the aggravated assaults in 2004 were related to family violence
- ◆ The percentage of family violence assaults was up to 40% for several months in 2001
- ◆ 34% of the aggravated assault victims did not know their assailant - up from 29% in early 2003
- ◆ 10% of aggravated assaults resulted in an injury to a child



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Violent Crime Action

- ◆ Reallocating additional resources to Career Criminal and FBI Violent Crime Task Force
- ◆ Increased bilingual & other Detectives in Robbery
- ◆ Area Commands establishing anti-robbery programs



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Violent Crime Action

- ◆ Sex Offender Apprehension & Registration (SOAR) check on accuracy of addresses
- ◆ Continue Emergency Protective Order home visits to reduce family violence
- ◆ Initiate home visits of abused & neglected children to enforce court issued safety orders
- ◆ Strictly enforce laws regarding sale & consumption of alcohol to minors



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Crime in Austin Jan-Jun 2004

Property Crime

- ◆ 20,341 property crimes from Jan - Jun 2004
 compared to 20,886 from Jan - Jun 2003
- ◆ Overall decrease driven by reduction in
 burglaries and burglaries of vehicles



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Property Crime Jan-Jun 2004

- ◆ 3,264 burglaries compared to 3,680 in 2003
 - Residences down 1%; storage facilities down 70%; businesses down 6%
- ◆ 15,654 thefts compared to 15,824 in 2003
 - burglaries of vehicles make-up more than ½ of all thefts
 - 3% reduction in burglaries of vehicles
 - 21% reduction in shoplifting
- ◆ 1,423 auto thefts compared to 1,382 in 2003
 - Chevy/GMC pick-ups and SUVs most likely to be stolen



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Property Crime Action

Truancy reduction

- ◆ Cooperation among AISD, APD and other law enforcement agencies
- ◆ Key elements of the program
 - Return kids to school during the day
 - Establish a juvenile center for chronic truants & youth with warrants
 - Connecting social service programs with chronic truants



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Property Crime Action

- ◆ Property Crimes Unit
 - Started in November 2003
 - Unit has dismantled 3 major fencing rings
 - Continued focus on the receivers of stolen property
- ◆ Auto Theft reduction
 - Bait car program fully implemented
- ◆ Increased use of Forensics in less serious property crime cases



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2004

APD Traffic Update

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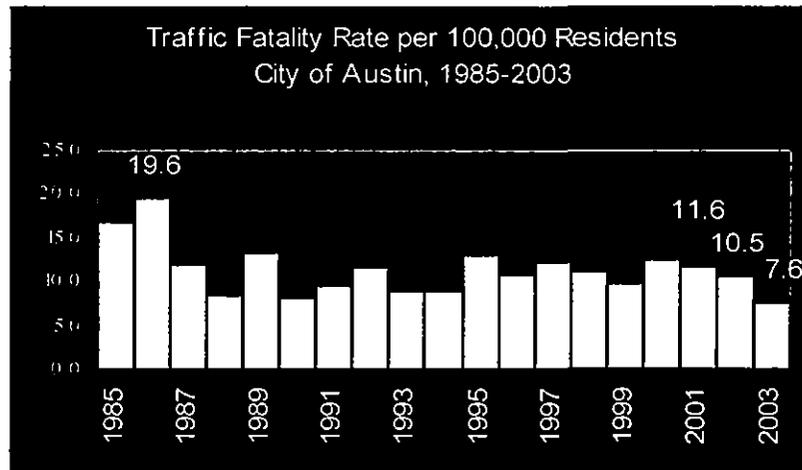
2004 Traffic Update (Jan-Jun)

Since January, an average of five persons per month have died on our roadways

- ◆ The youngest was 14 and the oldest was 90
- ◆ **Half of our fatalities involved drugs or alcohol**

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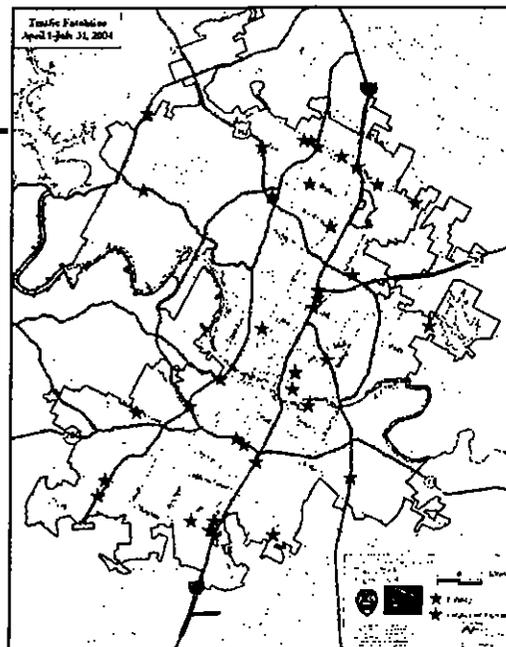
2004 Traffic Update (Jan-Jun)



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2004 Traffic

Traffic Fatalities
January to present:
39 collisions
40 deaths
20 involved alcohol



Texas Cities- Traffic Fatalities

Agency	Jan-Jun 03 fatalities	Jan-Jun 04 fatalities
Dallas	77	78
Houston	98	117
San Antonio	72	80
Ft. Worth	25	40
El Paso	19	21
Austin	24	33

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2004 Traffic Update (Jan-Jun)

The Austin Police Department employs a three-pronged strategy for addressing traffic safety:

- ◆ Enforcement
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Engineering

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2004 Traffic Update (Jan-Jun)

- ◆ Enforcement strategies are developed through:
 - accident location analysis
 - citizen complaints
 - officer's observations
- ◆ Purchased equipment to enhance officers' ability to enforce traffic and DWI laws
 - Breath Alcohol Testing bus
 - Stealth cars
 - Radar
- ◆ Grants used to fund increased enforcement- \$612,000 in FY04

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Enhanced DWI Enforcement

- ◆ New officers train with the DWI Unit
- ◆ Increased overtime staffing
- ◆ More aerial support locating DWIs on freeways and throughways

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General Traffic Enforcement

- ◆ Stealth vehicles to identify aggressive drivers
- ◆ Variety of vehicles provided by local car dealers parked to disguise an officer using radar
- ◆ Increased media access to real-time collision information and enforcement target locations



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Public Education

- ◆ Public services announcements: two ready and 6 in the planning stages
- ◆ Billboards and newspaper ads
- ◆ Provide local colleges, high schools and military posts with educational materials
- ◆ Alcohol stings: inform the media about businesses that sell or furnish alcohol to minors



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Individual Accountability

- ◆ Don't Drink and Drive
- ◆ Don't allow a friend to drink and drive
- ◆ Slow down and obey all signals and traffic signs
- ◆ Wear your seatbelt



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Traffic Management

Role of the Commander over traffic safety management:

- ◆ Lead APD's participation in partnership with TxDOT, City/County transportation departments, Capital Metro and other related agencies
- ◆ Implement improved officer training on how to reduce traffic congestion
- ◆ Coordinate APD input on roadway engineering and traffic signal control
- ◆ Oversee traffic education efforts including the production of public service announcements



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